

# Women's Foundation of California

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*the* WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION  
*of* CALIFORNIA

- A 30 year statewide public foundation that provides grants and capacity building support to non-profit organizations across California that are led by and serve women and girls.
- Invest in women and girls as agents of systemic social change because of their central role in communities and families.
- Invest in strategies of grantmaking, strengthening organizations, policy advocacy and movement building in order to accelerate systemic social change

# Women's Policy Institute

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- Launched the Women's Policy Institute in 2003 as an innovative year-long experiential training program that brings the expertise of nonprofit women leaders in the state public policymaking process in California
- Works to increase the number of community-based leaders who are actively involved in shaping policies that affect the health and well-being of women and girls
- Trained over 160 advocates; succeeded in getting 10 bills passed, plus another 8 to the governors desk; 92% of graduates report continuing to be involved in policy advocacy work

# Why focus on Women Elder Issues?

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- California's elder population is increasing female and more ethnically diverse
- Disparities that women and girls face are only exacerbated as they age with women of color and limited English speakers as the most vulnerable.
- Economic **In**securities: age discrimination in employment, heightened health risks, gender biased pay inequities while in the work force, significantly lower, if any, social security and retirement income.

# Elder Women's Initiative

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## Long-term Goal:

To equip elder grassroots activist women and their allies with the capacity to articulate policy goals, to mobilize constituencies and lobby successfully for policies to allow all elder women to age in place with dignity, economic security and access to affordable health care.

## Partners:

- The California Endowment
- UCSF Institute for Health and Aging
- Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- California Commission on the Status of Womens
- New America Media



## Women Speak Out: Changing the Way Californians Age

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- Community listening sessions held in Oakland, Fresno and Los Angeles in September and October 2008
- Over 350 elder women and their allies participated to discuss their priorities and assets with policymakers
- Diversity: age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as geographic residence, including rural communities
- Policy recommendations from the Speak-Outs will be published in a report which will be disseminated June 2009

# Next Steps

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## Growing the Movement for Systemic Social Change

- Funder Briefings
- Presenting at Conferences
- Statewide Convening Elder Issues Institute
- Continued partnership with EESI
- Replication of WPI in other states